



## Flu Vaccines to reach clinics soon

### *No shortages expected this year*

**USAREUR Public Affairs**  
News Release

HEIDELBERG, Germany—Army health clinics and hospitals in Europe will begin immunizing TRICARE beneficiaries against the flu beginning Sunday, according to Europe Regional Medical Command officials.

The first two weeks of the immunization program this year will focus on providing the vaccine to deployed or deploying Soldiers and civilians, as well as high-risk individuals. As more shipments arrive in theater, the program will expand to cover all TRICARE beneficiaries who receive care in Army medical treatment facilities in Europe. The ERMIC goal is to provide the vaccine to everyone eligible by the end of December.

This year the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta recommend the vaccine for infants from six to 59 months of age, said Lt. Col. Robert A. Smith, ERMIC Pediatrics consultant.

"I strongly urge parents to seek the immunization for their children, since infants in that age group are more likely to develop severe health

problems should they contract the flu," he said. "Also, young children are usually the carriers of influenza into families and by immunizing them, we help protect the entire household."

Immunizations are the first line of defense against the flu, said another ERMIC expert. According to Lt. Col. Bill Corr, ERMIC epidemiology consultant, immunizations are especially effective this time of year.

"As we approach the winter months," Corr noted, "people spend more time indoors with others. Those are conditions that make the spread of respiratory disease, such as the flu, more likely."

Besides getting the flu vaccine, Corr also urges everyone to take other precautions, such as washing hands frequently, covering up coughs and sneezes, and keeping up a healthy diet.

Military treatment facilities announce specifics of their programs as they occur. MTF commanders will work with unit commanders in their areas to schedule unit-level immunizations. Getting the flu vaccine is mandatory for all active-duty Soldiers.



**First Sgt. Mario Cockrell, Attack Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), checks Spc. Michael Balda's (also in Attack Company) Class A Uniform Sept. 29 during pay day activities. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Aird, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)**

## Spouses to Teachers program expands to European region

**By Sgt. Aimee Millham**  
USAREUR Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Military spouses in Europe interested in teaching can participate in the Department of Defense Spouses to Teachers program, which until now had been only available stateside.

The program's services include information on state-specific educational requirements, teaching credentials and scholarship options, along with a maximum reimbursement of \$600 for teacher certification examinations.

"Spouses serve too," said Pamela K. Smith, the Spouse Education, Careers and Relocation program manager for the office of the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "It's our goal to help them build careers."

According to DoD research, teaching is one of the top-five career choices among military spouses. And because keeping military spouses employed is a good retention tool, Smith said, the overseas expansion of STT simply makes sense.

The program, directed by Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support, is open to spouses of all servicemembers, including reservists and guardsmen. Furthermore, there are no higher-education requirements to enter the program, and the program is commitment-free.

"You can change your mind and opt out any time," said Marti Readle, advisor for DANTES in Europe.

Interested spouses can contact the Spouses to Teachers network to be assigned a counselor designated for the state where

the spouse is interested in teaching. For convenience, the interaction between spouses in Europe and their STT counselors will occur via the Internet and by phone.

And while counselors will help prospective teachers map out their educational career according to state and subject-based requirements, the program is not a job-placement service, Readle said. Plus counselors will not advise spouses which schools to attend.

"You have to be proactive," Readle stressed. "In the military, we're used to being told exactly where to go and what to do. That's not the way this program works."

Spouses can find a list of several military cooperative teacher certification programs available through distance learning at [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil).

Though the program does not find jobs

for spouses, there is a planned partnership between STT and the DoD Education Activity, through which DODEA plans to provide support to spouses wherever it can, including possible student teaching opportunities, Smith said.

Additionally, Smith recommends two Web sites – [military.com/spouse](http://military.com/spouse) and [milsponse.org](http://milsponse.org) – that compliment the STT program by serving as career centers where spouses can research career information, post resumes and make job searches.

Spouses interested in the STT program in Europe and looking for more information can log onto [www.spousestoteachers.com](http://www.spousestoteachers.com), and click on the "OCONUS" link. They also can contact the National Spouses to Teachers Office in Pensacola, Fla., by phone at 1-800-231-6282 or DSN 922-6282, or by e-mail at [stt@voled.doded.mil](mailto:stt@voled.doded.mil).

### Civilian Employees Key TSP, IRA, FERS information

**Provided by Vicenza Civilian Personnel  
Advisory Center**

For 2006, the Internal Revenue Service annual limit on elective deferrals for Thrift Savings Plan contributions is \$15,000. Civilian employees are strongly encouraged to check their TSP year-to-date contributions under the "Deductions" section of their Leave and Earnings

Statement to ensure their contributions do not exceed the limit prior to the end of the pay year.

When the maximum contribution limit is reached, employee contributions will be suspended for the remainder of the year. If the employee is a FERS employee, their agency matching contributions will also be suspended. (Employees over 50 years of age will still be able to continue participation in the TSP Catch-up program even if the regular employee contributions exceed \$15,000.)

If you are under FERS, it is very important for you to ensure you are making employee contributions throughout the entire year in order to avoid losing agency matching contributions. You may change your

contribution election at any time via the Army Benefits Center - Civilian systems. The TSP Fact Sheet entitled "Annual Limits on Elective Deferrals," describes in detail the elective deferral limits and especially how it affects TSP contributions of FERS employees. You may view the TSP Fact Sheet at [www.tsp.gov/forms/oc91-13w.pdf](http://www.tsp.gov/forms/oc91-13w.pdf).

Additional information is available on line at <https://www.abc.army.mil>. If you have questions, please contact a counselor at the ABC - C toll-free from:

Germany: 0800-1010282 or DSN 1986\*  
Italy: 800-780821 or DSN 1986\*

\*For Army bases the DSN number has no prefix to dial, just dial the four digits of 1986 and you will be connected.



Lion Shake will take place the morning of Oct. 17.

It is an antiterrorism/force protection exercise.

Normal day-to-day operations on Caserma Ederle will be disrupted as the community tests its emergency response capabilities.





# IMA-Europe bids farewell to first CSM, welcomes replacement

**IMA-Europe**  
Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The Installation Management Agency-Europe held its first change of responsibility when Regional

Director, Russell B. Hall transferred the ceremonial sword of responsibility from Command Sergeant Major Teresa V. King to Command Sergeant Major John M. Gaines on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg Oct. 3. King became the first command sergeant

major for IMA-Europe in 2003 and took on the challenge of helping establish the new agency; it would turn out to be her last assignment as she was officially retired after relinquishing her position as IMA-EURO's senior noncommissioned officer.

"CSM King looked out for Soldiers and families by being out there on the street with them," said Hall. "She is a pioneer and faced many challenges head-on and showed that leadership remains the core component of the NCO fiber. As the first IMA-EURO command sergeant major, she left her mark for all to exceed."

King had nothing but phrase for those who helped her throughout her career and wanted only to show her thanks.

"There are a lot of people I would like to thank, because my 30-year career in the Army has been everything I could have ever asked for, and I would not change anything," King said, fighting back tears as she addressed the many people who had gathered for the ceremony. "This is by far the best job in the Army and I feel good about leaving the command, its Soldiers and civilian employees in the capable hands of my battle buddy, [CSM] John Gaines."

Gaines is no stranger to the challenges and responsibilities that such a position bestows upon an NCO as he has been the USAG Benelux command sergeant major.

"I'm very honored to have been chosen for

this position, it shows the trust and confidence that Mr. Hall has in me, I believe we will make a great team," said Gaines, who had a couple dozen Soldiers and civilians travel from the Benelux to pay support and witness to the next chapter in his 25-year military career.

King was awarded the Legion of Merit for her 30 years of dedicated service and then presented a letter from the president and a folded United States flag.

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage month



Spec. Leviticus Higgins (left), South of the Alps Dining Facility staff, serves up a special meal commemorating Hispanic Heritage month to Capt. Joseph Curry, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) Sept. 27. The dining facility is serving Hispanic-theme meals on Wednesdays until Oct. 18. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

## Breast Cancer Awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and the Vicenza Health Clinic staff and USAG Vicenza Health Promotion coordinator will be promoting prevention at the Commissary between 3-6 p.m. today, Oct. 10, with a display of information and experts to answer your questions. Stop in and get some information.



## Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community.

If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at [www.usag.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.usag.vicenza.army.mil) and click on the Community Action Council link.

This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies.

There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required.

Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration.

Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next CAC will be Oct. 25 beginning at 10 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

**Issue:** Is there a legal issue or SOFA agreement stating that only three vehicles can be registered at Vehicle Registration?

I have four vehicles, three of them registered. The fourth is garaged.

**Recommendation:** If this is not a SOFA issue, perhaps an exception to the policy letter signed by the unit commander would be a good alternative.

Thank you. The CAC is an excellent resource for information.

**Response from the Directorate of Emergency Services:** SETAF Regulation 190-3 authorizes each sponsor to register three vehicles and one trailer.

This SETAF Regulation mirrors the Tri-service regulations, USAREUR Reg 550-32, USAFE instructions 36-101, and COMUSNAVEUR Instruction 5840.2E

which allows members of the force assigned to Italy to register three vehicles.

This regulation and these instructions are based on the London Convention of 1951, as changed in 1999.

The London Convention allowed for service members to register two vehicles.

The U.S. government requested the Italian Ministry of the Interior increase this to three vehicles in 1999 and this was approved.

Thus, at this time, there is no exception to policy available as recommended.

In accordance with the SOFA, U.S. forces and their family members are not considered residents of Italy.

Under Italian law, in order to register a vehicle, the person must be a resident. Therefore, the fourth vehicle cannot be registered under the Italian system.

**Issue:** One weekend I had an MP officer knocked at my door with the issue of my pool in the back yard and the fact that I don't have a fence.

I was informed about the housing regulations, and I told the officer that I would take action.

I took the pool down and recently took a walk around Villaggio and counted many pools outside fenced areas.

I do understand that I must follow housing regulations in order to live here, but so should everyone else.

I feel that if I received that knock then so should everyone that is not following as well.

**Recommendation:** Have appropriate personnel conduct a walk through of the housing area and inform residents of this housing regulation. Make an announcement in the Outlook of said regulation. Put an announcement on the Command Information Channel.

**Response from the DES:** When an MP observes a safety hazard, he or she is trained to take immediate action.

In this case, the MP knocked on the resident's door and informed the resident of the safety hazard of an unfenced, uncovered and unattended swimming pool.

After receiving notification of this incident, I walked through Villaggio three separate times (twice during the day and once at night) and noticed additional pools.

All pools were fenced or covered tightly in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

**Response from the Directorate of Public Works:** Summer safety guidance published in last years June 14, 2005, edition of *The Outlook* dealt with "wading" pool safety.

Wading pools are normally small little plastic pools, of a blow-up variety that hold less than a foot of water.

That guidance required that wading pools:

- (1) Be used only under adult supervision.
- (2) Be emptied of water after use.
- (3) Be stored properly when not in use.

Now AAFES is selling pools which can hold several feet of water; have pool covers; pumps, filters and water treatment systems, etc.

These pools carry an inherent danger with them unless strict guidelines are put in place and rigidly adhered to by all users in the housing area.

Unfortunately, no current policy is in place to address safety requirements for personally owned pool usage for government-controlled quarters (Villaggio & Leased Housing).

A new Community Policy Memorandum will be developed by USAG Vicenza regarding use of pools and safety requirements for personally owned pools in Villaggio and government leased housing.

This new policy, which should be finalized during August, may be too late for real benefit this season but will be beneficial for next year.

Once approved it will be disseminated via *The Outlook*, AFN radio and television and a copy of the policy memorandum hand carried to each Villaggio residence.

The new policy will also be issued to all new occupants upon assignment to government quarters.

In the interim, occupants of Villaggio and government leased quarters should contact the Housing Division 634-8570/8578 should they have any questions regarding this subject.

Once the policy is in place, the first line of enforcement should be the responsibility of the appointed Villaggio Area/Zone coordinator.



# Watch Out

## "Phishers" try reeling in Army Europe e-mail users

By Dave Melancon  
USAREUR Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany—E-mail users beware; criminals are trolling around in your office or home computer trying to hook personal information.

Last month, according to the USAREUR Information Assurance and Computer Security Office, several U.S. Army, Europe Soldiers and employees received a baited e-mail message claiming a nonexistent "Defense Forum" account had expired and that personal information was needed immediately to keep the account active.

The message, which targeted computer professionals, included two disguised links to seemingly legitimate Web sites that would allegedly reestablish the lapsed account.

But the bait was fishy; the links connected to ".com" (business) and ".ca" (Canadian) Internet domain endings, a common ploy that failed to lure the USAREUR IT pros.

According to IASSURE, this was a typical "phishing" attack.

Phishing attacks, which can be disguised as official e-mails, instant messages, pop-up advertisements or business-related phone calls, attempt to trick victims into giving away sensitive information, such as credit card or Social Security numbers, personal identification numbers or passwords.

Phishers try to acquire the information by masquerading as a legitimate organization or business.

The fake Web sites may closely resemble a legitimate business or organization's pages, but in reality, the victim is visiting a Web site of the phisher's choosing.

Once they reel in some personal or financial data, phishers can establish fraudulent bank accounts, obtain loans or conduct other business in the victim's name.

While some phishers shotgun out fraudulent messages indiscriminately, hoping to snag victims using a particular bank or service, research has shown that they sometimes already know their target's bank or interest and then send a disguised e-mail based on that information.

Soldiers and family members who

use social networking sites frequently provide criminals with bait by publicly posting personal details about themselves.

If you receive a message that asks you for personal information, take a look for some of these clues:

- Misspelled Web addresses: changing a letter or two in a legitimate site's address is one of the most common lures in the phishers' tackle box.

Watch out for:

- Web address with the "@" symbol in the URL.

- Use of an incorrectly formatted, "old" or obsolete e-mail address.

Additionally, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission offers these tips to help you avoid getting hooked by a phishing scam:

- If you receive an e-mail or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply to the message; do not click on any links contained in the message; do not cut and paste any Web addresses

contained in the message into your Internet browser.

Legitimate companies will not ask for personal information via e-mail or over the phone. If you have questions about your account, close your browser and connect to the business by typing in its Web address.

- Use anti-virus software and a firewall and keep them up to date. Anti-virus programs can scan messages for embedded viruses and hidden scripts. Firewalls make it harder for your computer to be "seen" on the Web and also protect your computer from unauthorized intrusions.

- Never e-mail personal or financial information.

- Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to check for unauthorized charges.

- Be cautious about opening files included as attachments in e-mail messages. These files might carry viruses or executable programs or scripts that can bypass your

computer's security.

If you think a phisher is trolling for your personal information, contact your office's information security officer. To learn more about phishing, visit the IASSURE site at <https://iassure.usareur.army.mil>. To learn more about not becoming the "catch of the day," visit the FTC's Web site at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menu-internet.htm>.

### Fire Department Open House

The Ederle Fire Department will hold an Open House on Friday from 3-6 p.m.

From 3-4 p.m., they will display firefighting equipment.

From 4-5 p.m., they will have a demonstration of fire chemistry.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be a cake cutting and awards ceremony for the winners of a recent essay contest.

## HAZARDOUS RECALL

### Playskool Recalls Toy Tool Benches

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Playskool, of Pawtucket, R.I., is voluntarily recalling about 255,000 Team Talkin' Tool Bench toys following the deaths of two young children.

Playskool received reports that a 19-month-old boy from Martinsburg, W.V., and a 2-year-old boy from League City, Texas, suffocated when oversized, plastic toy nails sold with the tool bench toys became forcefully lodged in their throats. Though the toy nails are not considered a small-part, and the toys are intended for children age 3 and older, Playskool is voluntarily conducting a recall as a precaution to prevent additional incidents.

The Team Talkin' Tool Bench™ is a 20-inch tall plastic toy tool bench with an animated red toy saw, a yellow toy drill and a blue toy vice. The toy talks and makes various sound effects, including tool sounds. The product also includes a toy hammer, screwdriver, two 2¼-inch plastic screws, two 3-inch plastic nails and pieces to build a small toy plane. The red Playskool logo is on the front of the brown surface of the tool bench.

The toy was sold at Toys R Us, Wal-Mart, Target, KB Toys stores and various other stores nationwide from October 2005 through September 2006. AAFES added this item in March 2005 as one time buy and purchased 1578 units and sold over 1498 units.

Consumers should immediately take the two toy nails away from children and contact Playskool to get information on returning the nails for a \$50 certificate for a Playskool (or its related companies') product.

For additional information, call Playskool at (800) 509-9554 anytime, or go to their Web site at [www.playskool.com](http://www.playskool.com)

## Yard of the Month winners for July



**Congratulations to the Yard of the Month awardee for July, Spc. Abrahan Soto, Headquarters Support Company, SETAF. Soto, along with the first and second runners up received cash awards from the AAFES and the Commissary, along with Certificates of Appreciation. Other awardees are:**



**Second place went to Lt. Col. Craig Bell, Headquarters Support Company, SETAF.**



**Third place went to Sgt. 1st Class Michael Zeidler, 2-503d Infantry Battalion, 173d ABCT.**



**Honorable mention to Staff Sgt. Francisco Lopez, 2-503d Infantry Battalion, 173d ABCT.**



**Honorable mention to Maj. Jimmy Hinton, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d ABCT.**



**Honorable mention to Master Sgt. Gilberto Aviles, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Vicenza.**

*(Editor's note: Unfortunately, the Yard of the Month awardees for the month of July were previously not featured in the Outlook. Congratulations to those who received the award.)*

## The Outlook

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**USAG Vicenza Commander and Outlook Publisher**  
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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

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# Sky Soldiers train with Italian troops in Operation Mangusta

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Matthew Piosa and  
Sgt. 1st Class Mark Patterson  
Special to the Outlook

Soldiers from Battle Company, 2d Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) participated in Operation Mangusta, an Italian Folgare Brigade training exercise Sept. 5-15.

The exercise took place over rough terrain in the Italian countryside, northwest of the city of Grosseto.

Operation Mangusta is a force-on-force exercise, meant to test the individual skills and the leadership of Italian paratroopers. It allows commanders and Soldiers to gain experience in patrol operations in adverse but realistic conditions.

A total of 50 paratroopers from Battle Company participated in the

five-day exercise.

The Soldiers were broken into two smaller elements; one element, comprised of approximately 30 personnel, based its operations out of the historic city of Siena, where it became an attachment to the 186th Regiment of the Folgare Brigade, the opposing force for this exercise.

The other 20 paratroopers continued south to Grosseto where they linked up with the 183rd Regiment of the Folgare Brigade and became part of the Friendly Forces, called BLUFOR.

Prior to starting the exercise in Siena, the OPFOR took time to conduct opportunity training with their Italian counterparts.

Line medics, Spc. Kent Davis and Pfc. Caleb Lee gave a class on medical procedures, such as administering intravenous lines and dressing



Spc. Kent Davis and Pfc. Caleb Lee, Battle Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) demonstrate the proper technique to administer an intravenous line to Italian soldiers of the 186th Regiment of the Folgare Brigade, prior to conducting patrols in Operation Mangusta. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Matthew Piosa, 2-503d Inf (Abn))



2nd Lt. Matthew Piosa of 2nd Platoon "Spartans," Battle Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne) briefs Capt. Martina of the 183rd Regiment, Folgore Brigade on the patrols plan, while Spc. Gustavo Diaz, Sgt. Joshua Ackler, and Sgt. Kevin Rice observe. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Patterson, B Co, 2-503 Inf (Abn))

wounds, to an Italian platoon from the 13th Company, 186th Regiment.

Battle Company Soldiers also taught and demonstrated Battle Drill 1A (Squad Attack), and in turn the Italian paratroopers showed Battle Company Soldiers their own unique Battle Drill standard operating procedure.

When the patrolling portion of the exercise began, Battle Company Soldiers were actively engaged in emplacing observation posts and conducting combat patrols in search

of BLUFOR patrols.

Simultaneously, the Battle Company element near Grosseto planned and executed patrols as part of the BLUFOR.

The patrol consisted of 20 paratroopers from Battle Company's 2d Platoon "Spartans." The patrol's mission was to infiltrate behind enemy lines in order to search for and destroy OPFOR objectives.

The mission profile included raids, ambushes and patrol base activities over a five-day span.

The missions provided realistic scenarios for leaders and Soldiers to test and integrate U.S. combat techniques with their Italian counterparts.

Throughout the planning and execution phases of each patrol, Battle Company Soldiers continuously dealt with issues recently experience during OEF combat operations such as language barriers, tactical and cultural differences, and civilians on the battlefield.



## ACS shares information on volunteer opportunities

Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator Randie M. Gibson, left, hands out information to a participant in the Community Volunteer Recruiting drive held at the Davis Family Readiness Center Sept. 28.

"The Army Volunteer Corps joined up with the American Red Cross center to host its first volunteer recruitment drive," said Gibson. "Organizations that have volunteer opportunities came out and participated to help recruit volunteers to their organizations. Having a volunteer recruitment drive provides a 'one-stop shop' opportunity for volunteers who are interested in volunteering but aren't sure where to go," she continued.

According to Gibson, this event gave the volunteer a chance to get to know the organization first and then decide what the best fit for the individual is.

"With more than 40 organizations active in our Army Volunteer Corps, this was our way of getting the word out," Gibson said. "We will be having our next recruitment drive in the spring of 2007." "I think this is a fantastic idea, not only for 'help' purposes, but interaction between agencies," said Lesley Gomez, Health Promotion coordinator. "I hope we all make use of this great opportunity."

Among agencies participating in the event were the Thrift Shop, the Community Mail Room and TIPS, an interpreter and translation program. All of these organizations, had representatives who highlighted the important role of volunteers.

"Volunteers are the back bone of our community, and they are greatly appreciated, especially at the mail room," stressed Joe Chavez, CMR.

"We need volunteers for foreign languages, in particular for Italian, Spanish, Korean native speakers," said Alex Hutcheson from TIPS. For information about TIPS, contact Rita Bonamego at 634-8523. Christine Valenca, from the Thrift Shop explained how the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers, even for a couple of hours from Monday to Thursday and free childcare is available. For information contact Monica Gammon at 634-7460.

For those who have any questions or would like more information on volunteer opportunities within the Vicenza military community, stop by the Davis Family Readiness Center, room 24 and see the Army Volunteer Corps coordinator or call 634-7942 or 0444-71-7942 from off post. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)





# American Red Cross non-stop Training

Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

**E**mergencies can not be predicted. A way to help to resolve them is to increase personal skills and perform the right procedure at the right time. Some of the topics covered during the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, First Aid and Babysitter's Training Courses offer the opportunity to learn and be ready in several circumstances where, suddenly, one may be involved in handling an emergency or illness, performing first aid or responding to life-threatening emergencies.

"The purpose of the American Red Cross Community CPR course is to provide a lay responder with enough knowledge to assist a fellow community member until more advanced help arrives," explained Stacy R. Shackelford, Vicenza ARC Station manager. Throughout this and other courses, many volunteers share their knowledge with the Vicenza community members.

"I have been learning CPR for years, since I first came in the Air Force," said Tech Sgt. Jennifer Wessner, a volunteer instructor trainer who has been teaching classes since her arrival in Vicenza in 2004.

Being in the military gave her the opportunity to take the course every year, but she found another way to practice her skills.

"I really wanted to remember it, so teaching helps me remember a lot more, and in the meantime I found out I really like teaching. I like sharing stories, and hearing what other people have to say, but – most of all – I like helping people learn how to save a life," Wessner explained.

The classes' participants seem to view the course as a positive experience as well.

Shantwanea King, 16, at the end of the one-day Babysitter's Training course highlighted "It was a great course filled with vital information for everyday life."

During this past month of September, the American Red Cross held the above mentioned class in the Davis Family Readiness Center as part of its quarterly program.

According to Shackelford, the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course focuses on equipping children ages 11 and older with the knowledge to safely stay home alone, stay home and watch a younger sibling, or baby sit other children in someone else's home.

"This course is one of the requirements to be listed on the installation babysitter's list through the Child and Youth Services Central Registration office," she added.

"All CPR and First Aid training participants who successfully complete the written exams and hands on skills assessments

do receive an official certification card. American Red Cross CPR certification is valid for one year while the First Aid certification is valid for three," Shackelford said.

"These courses are wonderfully empowering, just a few hours of instruction and you feel like you can help," said Kelly Martin, who attended with her husband Adam, the First Aid course in September.

"The instructor, Maj. [Stephen] Link, was awesome as he integrated the ARC class materials with real life applications and first hand knowledge."

Some of the topics taught during the class were treating burns, unintentional poisoning and open and closed wounds, just to name some of the most frequent type of injuries. Even while learning about these difficult situations that may occur during daily life, the class was entertaining as well as informative according to Shebree Dean. "I think everyone should take First Aid and CPR if only for personal use. You never know when you might need to use it for someone you love," she added.

For more information and registration about the upcoming courses, stop by the Red Cross Office located in the Davis Family Readiness Center, Room 47, or call 634-7089 (on post) or 0444-71 7089 from off post.



A student learns how to help a choking baby. Left: Students find proper hand placement for infant CPR and choking during the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training class held at the DFRC Sept. 23.



Below: Jennifer Wessner, ARC instructor, checks for signs of life during one of the CPR courses that she teaches at the Davis Family Readiness Center.



Left: Maj. Stephen Link, ARC instructor, bandages Adam Martin, a participant in the First Aid course held on Sept. 20. Right: ARC volunteers Leda Stauffer, center, and Rebecca Lienemann, right, hold the Community Volunteer Recruiting drive held at the DFRC Sept. 28. The intent of the event was to provide community members with a one-stop shop to sign up as a volunteer.



The next American Red Cross CPR classes are scheduled Oct. 14 and Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The course fee is \$30 and includes materials. First Aid course will be Oct. 19 from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. A Babysitter's Training Course is scheduled Nov. 3. This course fee is \$25 and includes a book and a babysitting kit. An Instructor Course will take place Oct. 20-23. This 24-hour course will be held from 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday and Monday while the Saturday/Sunday sessions will be from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. The cost of this course is \$125 and includes all necessary materials. Registration and payments are required prior to the classes.







# NCO academy comes to Ederle Soldiers

*For first time ever, Infantry Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course goes abroad*



Story and Photos by Spc. Justin Nieto  
SETAF Public Affairs

What to do when the Soldier can't go to school? Bring the School to the Soldier, and that's just what the members of the Henry Caro Non-Commissioned Academy in Fort Benning, Georgia, did when they brought their Infantry Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course to the Soldiers of Caserma Ederle.

"We are conducting an MTT (mobile training team) here for infantry BNCOC here in Italy," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jay Brimstin, commandant of the academy. "We've begun this as a means to assist the Army in getting the NCOES (Noncommissioned Officer Education System) education that their NCOs need."

While they have been mobile training teams in parts of the U.S. from Fort Benning, this is the first time in the history of the academy they have conducted an infantry BNCOC overseas, and it certainly won't be the last.



A student going through the first ever Infantry BNCOC MTT being conducted overseas hoists one of his wounded comrades on to his back for transport to a medic vehicle.

Left: Students charge in to a village in a tactical movement during their Field Training Exercises. Below: Two students drag one of their wounded Soldiers to medical attention during a day of mission rehearsals.



Brimstin continued, stating training NCOs like this, coming to them instead of the other way around, was becoming essential due to high deployment rates, leaving little time for essential NCO education.

"What we've found is this is probably the most effective means to get NCOES to NCOs as they come back out of theater," said Brimstin, who also stated that at this time, the MTT training is only for those coming back from deployment.

"Clearly, it's a great thing for the Soldiers," said Brimstin. "We are able to deliver this training at their home station versus them coming to Fort Benning. They get family time while in schools as well this way."

Brimstin stated this form of training is good for the unit as well because it allows for a concentration of the course, effectively reducing the length and allowing the Soldier to get back on duty sooner. Whereas a normal course length for Infantry BNCOC at Fort Benning is five weeks, for example, this BNCOC MTT has reduced the length to three weeks.

"It's really a win-win-win situation," said Brimstin. "First, it's great for the unit, as stated earlier. Second, it is good for the Army as we are able to increase our training capacity without overloading our capabilities at Fort Benning."

"And it's good for the Army, because it saves them money," continued Brimstin. "I believe the estimates are around a quarter-million dollars the Army saved by us coming here versus all those NCOs having to come to Fort Benning."

"Being here as opposed to Fort Benning is a lot easier because we are allowed to go home after school and can study with our peers here," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Shelton, B Co., 2-503rd Infantry (Airborne). "Guys don't have to be away from their families this way, and we are all from here. It's a lot easier getting around when it's your home station."

The condensed course began with the students taking an

Army Physical Fitness Test, followed by initial in processing for the course.

"Then we went in to basic classes like how to call for fire, map reading and so on, along with two tests," said Shelton. "The second week we had the land navigation course, along with two more tests."

"Week three, we are doing squad tactics, platoon tactics and performing a three-day FTX (field training exercise), along with machine gun ranges and basic marksmanship," said Shelton.

The training was not limited to just American Soldiers either, as three Italian NCOs also took part.

"It's great. The camaraderie between the units, learning what they do and then learning what we do. Learning how NCOs operate in our Army and how they operate in theirs," said Shelton, as he and his squad awaited a chance to practice moving as a team and reacting to enemy contact.

"We can learn what they do, what we do and then put those together as far as classroom learning, out in the field and how they teach their Soldiers," continued Shelton.

"And this overall is good for everyone," said Shelton, echoing Brimstin's comments. "They ship about six or seven instructors over here, versus sending 120 or so students to Fort Benning, and we have access to the things we want and normally use here."

Shelton continued, saying the training won't stop after graduation.

"After this, we are going to prepare for more field problems," said Shelton. "Three days after graduation, we (2-503rd) are going up to Germany for 19 days straight to train our squads."

Although deployment is not for sure in the immediate future for some of these Soldiers, they are nonetheless maintaining a constant state of readiness.